

REMARKS

Claims presented for prosecution in this Application are claims 26-30, claims 1-26 being canceled by the current and previous amendments. Claim 21 has been objected to as containing allowable subject matter, but being dependent upon a rejected base claim. In view of Applicants' remarks below, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 26-30 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the present Response be considered and entered, the rejections to the claims be withdrawn, and that the case now be passed to issue.

Objections to the Drawings

The outstanding Office Action has objected to the drawings as not evidencing the proper headings. In response, Applicants have the following comments:

- 1) With respect to Drawing Figures 2 and 4, Applicants have submitted herewith new informal Drawing Figures 2 and 4, having the proper "Replacement Sheet" designation;
- 2) With respect to Drawing Figures 5-7, these figures are being resubmitted with the proper "New Sheet" designation; and
- 3) Applicants respectfully submit that figures 5 and 6 do, in fact, illustrate threaded engagement element 23 which, as indicated in the present specification, act to produce an axial prestress upon the fluid/gas filled, or hollow, damping element 22.

In light of the amendments and remarks above, Applicants assert that the objections to the drawings have been addressed. Withdrawal of the objections to the drawings is therefore respectfully requested.

Objections to the specification

The outstanding Office Action has objected to the specification as containing reference numerals that are not shown in the drawing figures. In response, Applicants have amended the specification to remove these reference numerals.

In light of the amendments and remarks above, Applicants assert that the objections to the specification have been addressed. Withdrawal of the objections to the specification is therefore respectfully requested.

The 35 U.S.C. § 112 First Paragraph Rejection of Claims 1, 4-9, 11, 13-16, 18 and 20-24

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4-9, 11, 13-16, 18 and 20-24 as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Without conceding to the validity of the outstanding rejection, and merely in an attempt to advance prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 1, 4-9, 11, 13-16, 18 and 20-24.

Applicants do note, however, that Figures 5-7 and page 7 of the present specification (including the clarifying amendments made herein) do show and describe an anti-vibration system including a vibration reducing element. The vibration reducing element may be a damping element (22), which may either be hollow, filled with a fluid or filled with a gas. Moreover, as also shown in Figures 5 and 6 and discussed on page 7 of the specification, the damping element (22) is prestressed in an axial manner via the threaded adjusting element (23).

It will be readily appreciated that the selective operation of the threaded adjusting element (23) will selectively adjust the operational performance of Applicants' damping element (22). Moreover, by filling the damping element (22) with either fluid or gas, the damping element (22) will inherently compress at a differing rate and to a

modified extent, in dependence upon the nature of the fluid or gas contained therein. Thus, as would be appreciated by one of ordinary skill in the art, filling the damping element (22) with either a fluid or gas will adjust the damping characteristics of the damping element (22).

Applicants hope that these comments answer the Examiner's concerns noted in the outstanding Office Action, however should the Examiner has any continuing questions, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact Applicants' Representative to resolve the same without need for another Office Action.

In light of the canceled claims and Applicants' remarks above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding 35 U.S.C. § 112 first paragraph rejection of Claims 1, 4-9, 11, 13-16, 18 and 20-24.

The 35 U.S.C. § 112 Second Paragraph Rejection of Claims 1, 4-9, 11, 13-16, 18 and 20-24

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4-9, 11, 13-16, 18 and 20-24 as failing to distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention.

Without conceding to the validity of the outstanding rejection, and merely in an attempt to advance prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 1, 4-9, 11, 13-16, 18 and 20-24.

Moreover, Applicants have utilized the Examiner's helpful suggestions in formulating new claims 26-30.

In light of the canceled claims and Applicants' remarks above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph rejection of Claims 1, 4-9, 11, 13-16, 18 and 20-24.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection of Claims 1, 4-9, 11, 13-16, 18, 20, 22 and 24 over Taomo

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4-9, 11, 13-16, 18, 20, 22 and 24 as being anticipated by Taomo.

Without conceding to the validity of the outstanding rejection, and merely in an attempt to advance prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 1, 4-9, 11, 13-16, 18, 20, 22 and 24.

In view of the above, Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the existing rejection of claims 1, 3-11, 13-16, 18, 22 and 24 on this basis alone.

The 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection of Claim 23 over Taomo

The Examiner has rejected claim 23 as being obvious in view of Taomo.

Without conceding to the validity of the outstanding rejection, and merely in an attempt to advance prosecution, Applicants have canceled claim 23.

In view of the above, Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the existing rejection of claim 23 on this basis alone.

New Claims 26-30

Without conceding to the validity of the outstanding rejection, and merely in an attempt to advance prosecution, Applicants have proposed new claim 26, which reflects the combination of now-canceled claim 1 with the recitations of previously-dependent (also now-canceled) claim 21. Given that Applicants have formulated new claim 26 in conformance with the Examiner's indication of claim 21 containing allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that newly proposed claim 26 now clearly distinguishes over the cited prior art of record.

In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited prior art does not teach or suggest a hollow damping element that is filled with a fluid, as now explicitly recited in independent claim 26.

With respect to newly proposed claims 27-30, Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references teach or suggest a hollow damping element, as now recited in claim 27.

Indeed, Taomo's damping assembly does not include a hollow damping element, instead relying upon a spring and threaded bolt configuration.

In view of the above, Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner pass claims 26-30 to issue.

Applicant earnestly believes that claims 26-30 clearly define over the cited prior art, however, should the Examiner believe that there remains any outstanding issues, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact Applicants' Representative so as to expedite resolution of these outstanding issues, via and Examiner's amendment or the like.

CONCLUSION

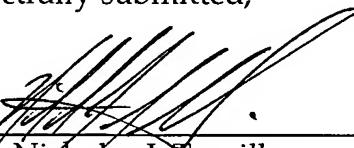
In view of the remarks above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 26-30 are allowable, and an early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number below to expedite resolution of any issues that the Examiner may consider to remain unresolved. In particular, should a Notice of Allowance not be forthcoming, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned for a telephonic interview, an Examiner's Amendment, or the like, while the outstanding issues are fresh in the mind of the Examiner.

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 13-0235 for the fees associated with the accompanying One Month Extension of Time. It is believed that no fees or deficiencies in fees are owed. However, authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 13-0235 in the event any additional fees are owed.

Respectfully submitted,

By _____


Nicholas J. Tuccillo
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,322

McCORMICK, PAULDING & HUBER LLP
CityPlace II, 185 Asylum Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103-4102
Tel. (860) 549-5290
Fax (413) 733-4543

Amendments to the Drawings:

Applicants are submitting herewith replacement drawings figures 2 and 4, as well as new informal drawing figures 5-7. Upon acceptance by the Examiner, Applicants will submit formal drawings to replace these informal drawing figures.